

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BENC, BL

SUBJECT: AGUILA PESTICIDES PLANT

REF: LA PAZ 5275 AND PREVIOUS

1. RE PARATHION/MALATHION PLANT, UNDERSTAND FROM PROCON THAT COMPANY'S U.S. OFFICES NOT INVOLVED IN SUBJECT PROJECT. FRENCH SUBSIDIARY PROCO-FRANCE MAY BE PURSUING PROJECT IN CONSORTIUM WITH RUSSIAN FIRM (SUPPLYING TECHNOLOGY) AND FRENCH CONTRACTOR. "INTERNATIONAL CONSTRUCTION WEEK" REPORTED IN JUNE 21 ISSUE THAT ANOTHER CONSORTIUM, COMPOSED OF ARGENTINE SUBSIDIARY OF ARTHUR G. MCKEE, TECHINT (ITALIAN-ARGENTINE), TAURO-SCIENTIFIC DESIGN (ARGENTINE-AMERICAN), HAS ALSO PRESENTED PROPOSAL. SINCE U.S. CONTENT EXPECTED TO BE MINIMAL IN EITHER CASE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DO NOT BELIEVE EMBASSY NEED FURTHER PURSUE THIS PROJECT.

2. IN ANSWER TO OTHER QUESTIONS RAISED REFTEL, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE SAME COMPANIES WHICH HAVE KNOW-HOW IN PARATHION PRODUCTION ARE MAJOR PRODUCERS OF PHOSPHOROUS PENTASULFIDE, I.E., STOUFFER, MONSANTO, HOOKER. THEREFORE, WE EXPECT BOLIVIANS TO ENCOUNTER PROBLEMS IN

OBTAINING PHOSPHOROUS PENTASULFIDE TECHNOLOGY AS THEY DID ON PARATHION PROJECT. AS FOR ENGINEERS AND CONSTRUCTORS, THERE ARE NUMEROUS COMPANIES WITH CAPABILITY THIS AREA, INCLUDING FIRMS WHICH EXPRESSED INTEREST AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER ON PARATHION PLANT (CATALYTIC, HEYWARD-ROBINSON, PROCON, MCKEE). WE ANTICIPATE THAT THIS PROJECT WILL PROCEED ALONG SAME LINES AS PARATHION PLANT AND DO NOT SUGGEST EMBASSY MAKE FURTHER EFFORT IN PURSUING THIS OPPORTUNITY UNLESS SPECIFIC U.S. FIRMS REQUIRE ASSISTANCE.

3. WE ARE AIR POUCHING PUBLICATION OF NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS ASSOCIATION ENTITLED "SAFETY GUIDE FOR WAREHOUSING PARATHIONS." SUGGEST AGUILA ENLIST HELP OF ITS CHOSEN CONTRACTOR FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON PARATHION HANDLING. INFO ON TRANSPORT OF POISONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM SUCH SOURCES AS COAST GUARD OR INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION.

4. QUESTIONS ON GLASS REACTORS AND BARRELS BEING HANDLED SEPARATELY.
ROBINSON

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